

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for the stimulation of the lipid metabolism in the skin of an animal or a human being for treating dermatitis comprising administering an ingestible composition comprising L-carnitine and ~~at least one component having an anti-oxidative activity to a patient in need of same, wherein the component exhibiting an anti-oxidative activity is selected from the group consisting of vitamin E; vitamin C; carotenoids; ubiquinones; tea catechins; coffee extracts containing polyphenols and/or diterpenes; ginkgo biloba extracts; grape or grape seed extracts rich in proanthocyanidins; spice extracts; soy extracts containing isoflavones, phytoestrogens; ursodeoxycholic acid; ursolic acid; ginseng and gingenosides and natural sources thereof; a source of thiols, preferably lipoic acid, cysteine, cystine, methionine, S-adenosyl-methionine, taurine, glutathione or natural sources thereof; and combinations thereof; and, wherein the amount of L-carnitine administered daily is from about 1 mg to about 1 g per kg of body weight and the amount of the component having an anti-oxidative activity~~vitamin C administered daily is from about 0.025 mg to about 250 mg per kg of body weight.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the composition increases the lipid secretion in the sebum and/or for producing a protective sebum layer on the skin.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the patient has ulcerative dermatitis.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A method for the stimulation of the lipid metabolism in the skin of an animal or a human for preventing the onset or incidence of ulcers associated with diabetes, of circulation disturbances, of physical, chemical or microbial noxae or of eczema, comprising the steps of administering to a patient at risk of ulcers an ingestible composition comprising L-carnitine and ~~a component having an anti-oxidative activity~~vitamin C, wherein the amount of L-carnitine administered daily is from about 1 mg to about 1 g per kg of body weight and the amount of ~~the component having an anti-oxidative activity~~vitamin C administered daily is from about 0.025 mg to about 250 mg per kg of body weight.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A method for the stimulation of the lipid metabolism in the skin of an animal or a human being for a reduction of itching comprising the steps of administering to a patient that is itching due to a skin condition an ingestible composition comprising L-carnitine and ~~a component having anti-oxidative activity~~vitamin C, wherein the amount of L-carnitine administered daily is from about 1 mg to about 1 g per kg of body weight and the amount of ~~the component having an anti-oxidative activity~~vitamin C administered daily is from about 0.025 mg to about 250 mg per kg of body weight.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A method for making an ingestable composition for the stimulation of the lipid metabolism in the skin of an animal or a human being, comprising the step of using L-carnitine and ~~at least one component having anti-oxidative activity~~vitamin C to make the composition, wherein the amount of L-carnitine administered daily is from about 1 mg to about 1 g per kg of body weight and the amount of ~~the component having an anti-oxidative activity~~vitamin C administered daily is from about 0.025 mg to about 250 mg per kg of body weight.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The method according to claim 6, for producing a protective sebum layer on the skin.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method according to claim 6 for reducing dry skin or itching.

Claims 9-11 (canceled):

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the ingestable composition contains a source of fat.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the fat comprises alpha-linolenic acid.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein said source of fat is selected from the group consisting of an animal fat, a vegetable fat, and combinations thereof.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the amount of said source of fat in the composition is at least 0.1 % by weight on basis of the total weight of the composition.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the ingestable composition is selected from the group consisting of a medicament, a food, a functional food, a nutritionally complete pet or human food, a dietary supplement, and combinations thereof.

Claim 17 (canceled):

Claim 18 (currently amended): An ingestable composition selected from the group consisting of a medicament, a food, a functional food, a nutritional complete pet or human food, and a dietary supplement comprising L-carnitine and ~~a least a component having an anti-oxidative activity and being selected from the group consisting of ubiquinones; tea catechins; coffee extracts containing polyphenols and/or diterpenes; ginkgo biloba extracts; grape or grape seed extracts rich in proanthocyanidins; spice extracts; soy extracts containing isoflavones, phytoestrogens; ursodeoxycholic acid; ursolic acid; ginseng and gingenosides and natural sources thereof; cysteine, cystine, methionine, S-adenosyl-methionine, taurine or natural sources thereof; and combinations thereof; or being selected from the group consisting of mixtures of vitamin E or derivatives thereof with two or three of vitamin C or derivatives thereof; grape seed extract; cysteine; and combinations thereof, and, wherein the amount of L-carnitine administered daily is from about 1 mg to about 1 g per kg of body weight and the amount of the component having an anti-oxidative activity~~vitamin C administered daily is from about 0.025 mg to about 250 mg per kg of body weight.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The method according to claim 4, ~~wherein the~~the ingestible composition further comprising a component, in addition to vitamin C, exhibiting an anti-oxidative activity is selected from the group consisting of vitamin E; ~~vitamin C;~~ carotenoids; ubiquinones; tea catechins; coffee extracts containing polyphenols and/or diterpenes; ginkgo biloba extracts; grape or grape seed extracts rich in proanthocyanidins; spice extracts; soy extracts containing isoflavones, phytoestrogens; ursodeoxycholic acid; ursolic acid; ginseng and gingenosides and natural sources thereof; a source of thiols, preferably lipoic acid, cysteine, cystine, methionine, S-adenosyl-methionine, taurine, glutathione or natural sources thereof; and combinations thereof.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The method according to claim 5, ~~wherein the~~
~~the ingestible composition further comprising a component, in addition to vitamin C, exhibiting an anti-oxidative activity is selected from the group consisting of vitamin E; vitamin C; carotenoids; ubiquinones; tea catechins; coffee extracts containing polyphenols and/or diterpenes; ginkgo biloba extracts; grape or grape seed extracts rich in proanthocyanidins; spice extracts; soy extracts containing isoflavones, phytoestrogens; ursodeoxycholic acid; ursolic acid; ginseng and gingenosides and natural sources thereof; a source of thiols, preferably lipoic acid, cysteine, cystine, methionine, S-adenosyl-methionine, taurine, glutathione or natural sources thereof; and combinations thereof.~~

Claim 21 (currently amended): The method according to claim 6, ~~wherein the~~
~~the method further comprising using a component, in addition to vitamin C, to make the composition, the component~~ exhibiting an anti-oxidative activity is selected from the group consisting of vitamin E; ~~vitamin C; carotenoids; ubiquinones; tea catechins; coffee extracts containing polyphenols and/or diterpenes; ginkgo biloba extracts; grape or grape seed extracts rich in proanthocyanidins; spice extracts; soy extracts containing isoflavones, phytoestrogens; ursodeoxycholic acid; ursolic acid; ginseng and gingenosides and natural sources thereof; a source of thiols, preferably lipoic acid, cysteine, cystine, methionine, S-adenosyl-methionine, taurine, glutathione or natural sources thereof; and combinations thereof.~~

Claims 22-30 (canceled):

Claim 31 (previously presented): The method according to claim 4, wherein the ingestible composition contains a source of fat.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The method according to claim 5; wherein the ingestible composition contains a source of fat.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The method according to claim 6, wherein the ingestible composition contains a source of fat.

Claim 34 (canceled):

Claim 35 (previously presented): The method according to claim 4, wherein the ingestable composition is selected from the group consisting of a medicament, a food, a functional food, a nutritionally complete pet or human food, a dietary supplement, and combinations thereof.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The method according to claim 5, wherein the ingestable composition is selected from the group consisting of a medicament, a food, a functional food, a nutritionally complete pet or human food, a dietary supplement, and combinations thereof.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The method according to claim 6, wherein the ingestable composition is selected from the group consisting of a medicament, a food, a functional food, a nutritionally complete pet or human food, a dietary supplement, and combinations thereof.

Claim 38 (canceled):

Claim 39 (new): The method according to claim 1, the ingestible composition further comprising a component, in addition to the vitamin C, having anti-oxidative activity selected from the group consisting of vitamin E; carotenoids; ubiquinones; tea catechins; coffee extracts containing polyphenols and/or diterpenes; ginkgo biloba extracts; grape or grape seed extracts rich in proanthocyanidins; spice extracts; soy extracts containing isoflavones, phytoestrogens; ursodeoxycholic acid; ursolic acid; ginseng and gingenosides and natural sources thereof; a source of thiols, preferably lipoic acid, cysteine, cystine, methionine, S-adenosyl-methionine, taurine, glutathione or natural sources thereof; and combinations thereof; or being selected from the group consisting of mixtures of vitamin E or derivatives thereof with two or three of vitamin C or derivatives thereof; grape seed extract; cysteine; and combinations thereof, said ingestable composition selected from the group consisting of a food or a functional food, a nutritionally complete pet or human food, a dietary supplement, and combinations thereof.

Claim 40 (new): The ingestible composition according to claim 18, the composition further including a component, in addition to vitamin C, having an anti-oxidative activity and being selected from the group consisting of ubiquinones; tea catechins; coffee extracts containing polyphenols and/or diterpenes; ginkgo biloba extracts; grape or grape seed extracts rich in proanthocyanidins; spice extracts; soy extracts containing isoflavones, phytoestrogens; ursodeoxycholic acid; ursolic acid; ginseng and gingenosides and natural sources thereof; cysteine, cystine, methionine, S-adenosyl-methionine, taurine or natural sources thereof; and combinations thereof; or being selected from the group consisting of mixtures of vitamin E or derivatives thereof with two or three of vitamin C or derivatives thereof; grape seed extract; cysteine; and combinations thereof.